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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/574,075

03/30/2006

Shoji Yuyama

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EXAMINER

COLLINS, MICHAEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3651

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/13/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/574,075	Applicant(s) YUYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner Michael K. Collins	Art Unit 3651	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/30/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kodama et al. (USPGPUB 2002/0007868).

Regarding claim 1, Kodama et al. disclose a tablet cassette for containing a number of tablets, the tablet cassette incorporating a rotor having pocket portions for holding the tablets, when the tablet cassette is mounted on a mount base, rotation of the rotor causing the tablets held in the pocket portions to be discharged through a discharge port, characterized in that the tablet cassette comprises:

- a press member (43) which is pressed when the tablet cassette is mounted on the mount base; and
- a rotor reversing member (38) for reversing the rotor (39) by a predetermined quantity in conjunction with press of the press member.

Regarding claim 2, Kodama et al. disclose the tablet cassette as in Claim 1, wherein the press member is a press lever rotatably provided on the tablet cassette (see Figure 5B).

Regarding claim 3, Kodama et al. disclose the tablet cassette as in Claim 2, wherein the press member comprises a resilient piece (44) extending from the support shaft to the opposite side to the press lever, and the resilient piece comprises an engagement claw for engaging with and disengaging from an engaged portion of a guide rail provided on the mount base.

Regarding claim 4, Kodama et al. disclose the tablet cassette as in claim 1, wherein the press member comprises a pair of members which is pressed at the same time when the tablet cassette is held (see Figure 5B).

Regarding claim 5, Kodama et al. disclose the tablet cassette as in Claim 4, wherein the rotor reversing member is provided on any one of the pair of press member.

Regarding claim 6, Kodama et al. disclose the tablet cassette as in claim 1, further comprising a biasing member for biasing the press member in a non-pressing direction (see paragraphs [0055]-[0058]).

Regarding claim 7, Kodama et al. disclose the tablet cassette as in claim 1, wherein the rotor reversing member is an arm extending from the press member, the extremity of the arm is obliquely opposed to teeth of a rotor gear fixed on a shaft of the rotor which protrudes from the bottom of the tablet cassette (see Figure 5B).

Regarding claim 8, Kodama et al. disclose the tablet cassette as in Claim 7, wherein a contact member is provided in the vicinity of the rotor gear so that the

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distance to the rotor gear can be adjusted, and wherein a portion close to the extremity of the arm comes into contact with the contact member so that the extremity of the arm can enter into a space between the contact member and the rotor gear when the press member is pressed (see Figure 5B).

Regarding claim 9, Kodama et al. disclose the tablet cassette as in Claim 8, wherein a flexible portion is provided in at least one part of the arm (see Figure 5B).

Regarding claim 10, Kodama et al. disclose the tablet cassette as in claim 7, further comprising a rotation restraint gear (33) which moves in conjunction with press of the press member and engages with the rotor gear to restrain the rotor gear from rotating at a torque less than a predetermined level.

Regarding claim 11, Kodama et al. disclose the tablet cassette as in Claim 10, wherein the rotation restraint gear is movable in a tangent direction of the rotor gear (see Figure 5B).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael K. Collins whose telephone number is (571) 272-8970. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene O. Crawford can be reached on (571) 272-6911. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

M.C.
9/07/2007



GENE O. CRAWFORD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER